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You've been flagged as a bot due to your browser behavior, which might be caused by exceptional browsing speed, disabled cookies, or third-party plugins blocking JavaScript. To resolve this issue, ensure that cookies and JavaScript are enabled before reloading the page. Harvest of Empire is a historical account written by Juan Gonzalez that explores the complex relationship between Latin America and the United States. This non-fiction book delves into three significant periods in US-Latin American history: colonialism, immigration, and the growing influence of Latinos in US politics. By examining these phases, Gonzalez provides insight into the pivotal role that Latin Americans have played in shaping the course of US history. Juan Gonzalez, a journalist and political activist of Puerto Rican descent, has worked extensively as a columnist for the New York Daily News. His work combines investigative journalism with political commentary, applying a critical lens to historical events. Through his writing, Gonzalez sheds light on the profound impact that US intervention in Latin America has had on shaping the region's history. The colonial approach of the Spanish differed significantly from that of the British and French in North America. While the Spanish focused on social inclusion and political exclusion, the British and French implemented a more strict segregation policy. The United States' bid for independence transformed it into an empire, and many Latin American countries sought alliances with the US following the revolutionary war. However, the US often proved to be an unreliable ally, instead taking advantage of internal turmoil to expand its territorial holdings. The US had consolidated its power over much of Latin America by the twentieth century, often intervening in internal politics to maintain economic control. Examples include support for dictators such as Fulgencio Batista and Rafael "El Jefe" Trujillo. The designation of Puerto Rico as an unincorporated Commonwealth further disenfranchised its inhabitants. US intervention led to political instability, resulting in a significant influx of Latin American immigrants to the US during the twentieth century. The book "Branches" explores various Latin American immigrant groups settled in the US, highlighting unique cultural attitudes and challenges. Many chapters draw from firsthand accounts by immigrants from different backgrounds, including Gonzalez's personal experience as a Puerto Rican descendant. This sheds light on the complexities of identity among Puerto Ricans, who face tensions between being US citizens and foreigners. The influence of Mexican culture on the Southwest regions dates back to the annexation of territories in the nineteenth century. Despite this recognition, cultural expressions and experiences vary widely among Latin American communities in the US. Expert answers and top-tier study guides await you - thousands of students have already mastered their assignments, don't miss out on this opportunity! You can cancel anytime. Get 48 hours free access, or if you're already a member, log in here. Historically, the Southwestern United States has been part of Mexico's territory. Unfortunately, national borders were arbitrarily drawn, separating families and communities that had lived on the land for centuries. Gonzalez also explores how the Chicano movement of the 1960s contributed to the development of Mexican culture within the US. Interestingly, Cuban immigrants have received a relatively positive reception from the government compared to Dominican refugees. The latter faced denial of refugee status and limited access to government benefits, which led them to develop a negative reputation in their settled areas. However, Gonzalez notes that most Cuban immigrants feel valued by the US more for resisting communism than as people themselves. The rise in Central American immigration is attributed directly to US interventionism in the region, including support for violent dictators and predatory loans. This resulted in widespread political and economic disenfranchisement, prompting many Central Americans to migrate north in search of better opportunities. Immigrants from Panama and Colombia face similar challenges, with many traveling to the US seeking safety. The study "Harvest" highlights how Latino people have become increasingly influential in the United States, both politically and culturally. Gonzalez traces the evolution of Latino political engagement, starting with first-generation immigrant efforts to integrate into society. The existing United States culture was challenged by subsequent generations who rejected assimilation efforts and instead developed a strong sense of Latin American identity focused on civil rights and cultural diversity. This movement led to increased voter engagement, particularly among Latino Americans, Black voters, and liberal White voters, who began to unite behind more liberal candidates. The growing political involvement of Latin Americans transformed them into a recognizable and vocal voice within politics. However, the post-9/11 anti-immigrant sentiment had a negative impact on many Latin American groups. Despite this, Gonzalez argues that Latin American culture continues to be present in various aspects of modern US culture. Gonzalez also highlights the dependency on seasonal labor created by free-trade policies and economic exploitation in both the United States and Latin America. He believes that despite anti-immigrant sentiment remaining high, Latin Americans will continue to immigrate to the United States in search of economic opportunities. The status of Puerto Rico as a US unincorporated commonwealth is discussed by Gonzalez, who outlines three possible options for its future: full statehood, independence, or a "voluntary association" model. He endorses the latter option, which would allow Puerto Rico to maintain its relationship with the United States while receiving greater local autonomy. Gonzalez concludes by outlining six provisions that he believes will help decrease illegal immigration to the United States and repair Latin American nations affected by US interference: implementing a common labor policy along the Mexican border, improving working conditions for migrant workers, increasing transparency in trade agreements, promoting economic development in Latin America, supporting democratic governance, and fostering greater cultural exchange between the two regions.